Local Employment Dynamics
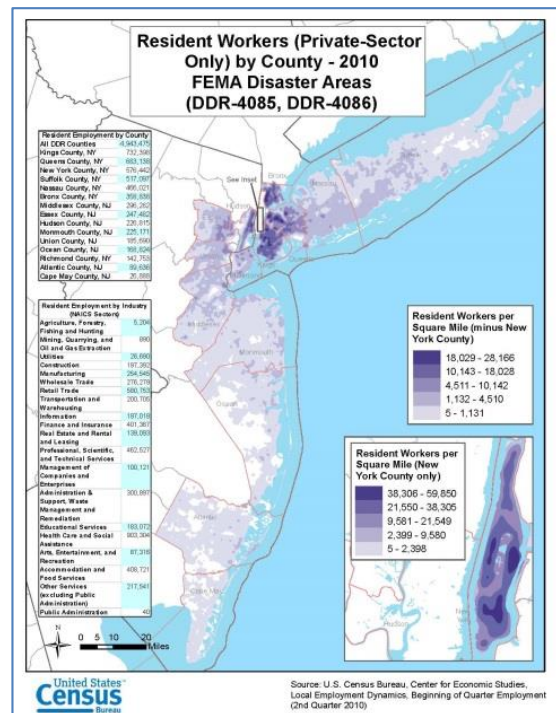
Americans are increasingly living and working in areas affected by a growing variety of natural disasters. During and immediately following hurricane Sandy, state planners and emergency managers in New Jersey required critical information on populations affected by the storm.

OnTheMap for Emergency Management (OTMEM) provided key access to population and demographic data projected to be under the storm by the National Hurricane Center while the LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES) dataset allowed NJ to examine movements of workers to and from affected firms or residential locations.

For rapidly changing events, such as hurricane Sandy, OTMEM constantly updates the available geographic and demographic data to describe the area or population of interest. To provide users flexibility in reporting and visualization, each analysis provides tabulations at different geographies, including place

(cities, towns, Census Designated Places, etc.), county, census tract, and state levels.

In the case of Hurricane Sandy, the New Jersey State Data Center (NJSDC) used OnTheMap for Emergency Management to quickly learn the scope of federal Disaster Declaration Areas, identify affected communities, and to generate population and workforce reports. The NJSDC worked with CES staff to assemble a standardized workflow, based on the LODES dataset, to produce maps and tabulations that would be useful to local communities recovering from the storm.

OnTheMap for Emergency Management allowed the NJSDC to determine
- How many residents and workers were potentially affected by an event?
- Where are they located?
- What are the demographic characteristics of potentially affected residents and workers?
- What types of industries are located within the affected event area?
- Where do workers live who work in the affected area?

NJ Sandy Data Page	**http://lwd.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/sandy/Sandy_index.html**
OnTheMap for Emergency Management	**http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/em/**
LEHD Source Data	**http://lehd.ces.census.gov/data/#lodes**